



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2014 at 7.45 p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington

Present: Councillors M. Woolley, R. Brennan, J. Gichovi-Elias, B. Norton, D. Harbour, K. Wood, R. Lancaster, T. Kearney & N. Carver
Parish Clerk Karen Dare
District Councillors David Jenkins & Roger Arthur
Neighbourhood Warden Jayne Jeffrey
2 members of the public
Invited Guest Rector James di Castiglione (Youth Project)
Invited Guest Angus Farquhar (representing Chanctonbury Nurseries)

The Chairman reminded members of the public the requirement that they limit their participation to the Public Adjournment sections of the meeting. If Members of the Public have questions for Police/Wardens & District/County Councillors then the Clerk will pass these on if these individuals have left the meeting. Members of the Public are reminded that Standing Orders allow for 5 minutes maximum participation.

001/14 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs N. Clark (personal) & R. Strudwick (illness), PCSO Bryony Sparks & County Councillor Philip Circus (business)

002/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chairman reminded Councillors that previous declarations still stand. Cllr K. Wood declared a personal, prejudicial interest in planning application DC/13/2384 as he is a near neighbour. Cllr N. Carver declared a personal, prejudicial interest in the Chanctonbury Nurseries item.

003/14 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th December 2013 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Brennan and seconded by Councillor Harbour, and agreed.

004/14 REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS & PCSO

PCSO report (see Appendix 2).

Questions: None

Wardens report (See Appendix 1).

Questions for the Wardens from Councillors:

Is there a new Manager at the Co-op? There is some uncertainty about the Managers position at present although any issues can be passed to the Area Manager in the short-term.

Cllr Harbour thanked the Warden for organising the Xmas party.

All Councillors welcomed Jayne back to work.

Youth Worker

The temporary Youth Worker had provided an autumn term report which the Clerk had circulated to Councillors. If Councillors have questions then send them to the Clerk. The service offered should be reviewed at monthly Council meetings. **C/F**

Previously, Councillors agreed in principle to the joint Church Youth Worker project and were happy to commit @£13k pa for 3 years from the Wardens budget to allow this to happen.

Update from the Rector on the joint PC/Church Youth project:

Ashington/Washington/Wiston Churches have agreed in principle to take this project to the next step and secure funding. The money will come directly from Parishioners and is expected to be in place by mid-February. Once this happens then the formal process of recruitment can begin (early March), interviews are expected to be conducted in May and depending on notice periods the successful candidate is expected to be in post at the beginning of September.

The Rector has a lot of experience in youth work with people of all denominations and re-iterated that the new Youth Worker would work with all faiths or non-faith and that the role of the Church is to support the whole community. The Youth Worker will have to be a Christian in order to deliver Church youth work, eg begin worship on a Sunday morning and will work with Ashington, Washington & Wiston youths delivering Church youth work. But there will be a large amount of time when the youth worker is out and about in the community engaging with all youths and no-one will be turned away because they are not a Christian.

One of the reasons youths engage in ASB is that they have un-channeled energy with no creative or constructive outlet. The Youth Worker will channel this energy in a positive way through activities, groups etc and will engage with them to understand the reasons/issues surrounding negative behaviour.

When delivering Youth Work the Youth Worker must first ensure that the young person is safe and that their behaviour or activities are not going to lead them to harm. They would then explore why they are engaging in certain behaviours/activities and help them understand the consequences for themselves and others and make good choices. The Youth Worker would be able to discuss all issues with young people (including ones contrary to their own faith) but would discuss all possible options available to the young person and this would include those consistent with the Christian faith.

Part of the project would include establishment of a management and reporting structure and this could include monthly reports to the Parish Council so that Councillors

and the public could ensure value for money. The Youth Worker would be given a list of Objectives for the coming year and would be asked to review them after 6 months and to present information about what the youth need and develop strategies and courses of action to address these needs.

Comments/questions from Councillors:

1. Ideally it would be useful to have the Youth Worker in post at the start of the school summer holidays as these are notoriously boring for youths.
2. Ideally the Youth Club should be open more than one evening per week, would this be possible? Once the Youth Worker is established he/she would engage with the youth, find out where they are going, what they are doing and what they want to do. A plan could then be devised to deliver what they need.
3. A handover period with the current youth worker would be useful.
4. The Youth Shelter is a significant investment and the Parish Council needs to be sure that it is a good use of money. The Youth Worker should be involved in decisions on this.
5. To clarify – the Church would be the employer, the Rector will be the line manager, the Parish Council would have representative(s) on the Steering Group. As the Employer the Church would be responsible for insurance.
6. From ACCT Secretary – are the Church taking over the Youth Club? The situation with regard to the Youth Club and building had not been clarified yet. This was for future discussion and this would include the Church/PC/Youth Club and ACCT (as landlords).

All Councillors confirmed their support for this project including the financial commitment and the Rector, Chairman & Clerk would now work together to take this project forward. The Chairman thanked the Rector for attending.

Warden recruitment

HDC has now asked to meet with the Council to discuss Warden recruitment. The Clerk will arrange a meeting.

KD C/F

Warden's car – the Chairman & Clerk agreed to renew the lease on the current car for another year. Costs were presented to the Clerk over the Xmas period and a decision needed to be made before 3rd January. The cost will be lower than previously paid. Agreed by all.

Youth Shelter – a meeting is being arranged with Youth Worker/Warden/PCSO/Rector to discuss this issue. The Clerk attended the ACCT meeting of 8th January to present location options, however, ACCT has asked for more information before agreeing a location. The Clerk confirmed that the shelter can be moved and re-positioned in the future should the need arise.

KD C/F

005/14 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNMENT

None present.

Cllr Carver left the room

006/14 INVITED GUEST ANGUS FARQUHAR (REPRESENTING CHANCTONBURY NURSERIES)

The Chairman opened this session by reminding Councillors that the Council has recently begun the formal process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The Council is expecting to hear shortly from HDC whether the Plan area is approved and then the Plan preparation can begin. The Chairman explained that it would be premature for the Council to comment on individual sites before work on the Neighbourhood Plan is completed, but that the Council would be interested to hear how proposals for Chanctonbury Nurseries would fit within the Plan framework and how they would address issues identified from the Housing Needs Survey, Older Persons Housing Survey, Parish Plan and overcome issues such as lack of school places, poor local provision of Health services eg Doctors.

Angus Farquhar:

Explained the history of the site as a plant nursery with current planning permissions for caravan/boat storage, offices, workshops etc and is a brownfield site. He explained that the current owner (widow of Peter Smith) wishes to explore the future of the 6 acre site (1 acre within the BUAB and 5 acres adjacent to the BUAB). The owners options are – leave as is; alternative employment use; residential use eg static mobile homes or houses (60-70 homes depending on size & type). A mixed use development is not being considered. The owner has instructed surveyors to examine the site with regard to utilities, surface water & sewage infrastructure.

No consultation with HDC has taken place yet. He is aware that HDC have a shortfall in the number of homes that they are required to build each year and new sites must be brought forward.

He asked that the Parish Council consider including Chanctonbury Nurseries site in its Neighbourhood Plan and discuss whether the principle of development on this site is acceptable. The owner wishes to work with the Parish Council to understand the constraints on the project eg school places, highways, healthcare etc and to develop an agreeable brief, prepare plans with a Developer, hold a Public Exhibition before submitting a planning application. This process is to ensure that the village gets what it needs.

Questions/comments from Councillors:

The Chairman re-iterated that the Neighbourhood Plan isn't solely a means of limiting future development in the village but gives residents the opportunity to shape the future of the village.

There was some concern that the timetable the owner of the site wished to follow would not fit with preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. It was not expected that the Plan would be ready for at least 12 months minimum. Angus Farquhar commented that there was much pressure on HDC to approve planning applications that would make up the shortfall in homes in the District and some planning refusals were being overturned on appeal.

It is likely that the results of the Surveys will not be ready for a month and during this time the Clerk & Chairman would look into the likely timescales for preparation of the Plan and both parties would report back to Council. **KD D**

Cllr Carver returned to the meeting.

007/14 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Councillor David Jenkins reported:

1. HDC provide grants towards the cost of preparation of Neighbourhood Plans and have recruited more staff in this department to help Parish Councils.
2. It is important that Developers/Parish Council find out what the village needs before identifying possible sites for Development.
3. HDC are under pressure to build more houses in the District and must identify the number of homes needed.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Jenkins for his report.

District Councillor Roger Arthur reported:

1. Planning appeals are being lost because HDC is building fewer houses than the Govt. targets. He maintains that Govt. targets are unrealistic and not achievable as they are based on predicted population growth rates rather than numbers of people actually buying homes. He will continue to press this point with the Planning Minister.
2. One result of this is that homes are being built outside BUABs, on greenfield land, often prone to flooding.
3. HDC is considering its Council Tax budget at present. Any increases will have to be paid by residents as they have no choice of provider. HDC shouldn't raise Council Tax unless there are no other possible options. HDC has cut its costs over the years and must do more to keep Council Tax down.
4. Sussex Police is proposing to increase its Council Tax in order to fund recruitment of 200 officers, but some years ago it reduced officer numbers by 500. Therefore a net loss of officers. Why should Parish Councils like Ashington need to employ Wardens to do Police type work?

The Chairman thanked Councillor Arthur for his report.

Questions:

1. Cllr Harbour asked if new reservoirs are planned as there is an apparent shortage of water in the South-East? Cllr Jenkins responded that infrastructure is funded through CIL contributions and if there isn't enough CIL money then infrastructure won't be built. Cllr Arthur has asked for infrastructure plans but none have been forthcoming. Cllr Jenkins commented that there isn't actually a shortage of water in the South-East as a large amount from aquifers is actually pumped into the sea.

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING:

D = Minuted but deleted from next agenda.

C/F = Minuted and carried forward to 'Actions Outstanding' on the next agenda.

To list = moved to the list at the end of the minutes until some progress is made

007/14 Trees at Northern Edge of Recreation Ground

Will Jones (HDC) will be inspecting the trees at some point.

KD C/F

008/14 Parish Council nature trail

The tree has been removed by Mark Adsett.

The footpath should be repaired by Paul Lewis imminently.

D

009/14 Review of Emergency Plan

Discussion following recent power cuts/other issues around the xmas period. Penn Gardens and part of Rectory Lane were without power for 5 days, Mill Lane for 2 days. The sewage pumping station on Rectory Lane didn't work and sewage poured into streams for days before Southern Water installed a temporary generator. The southern underpass flooded as power to the pump failed. Mobile phone signals were lost (O2 particularly) and landlines failed. It was difficult for residents in the area to communicate their problems to UK Power Networks, Southern Water and WSCC. Cllr Carver explained how old Emergency Plans split the village into areas and allocated a Councillor to each area to enable swift communication with one central co-ordinator. It was mentioned that the village has an agreed 'rest centre' at the Community Centre but no-one called at the Emergency Officer's house to inform her that there were problems. This may have been because it was Xmas. It was agreed that Councillors would review the Emergency Plan and come forward with any suggestions for improvement. **C/F**

CORRESPONDENCE

010/14 For action:

1. Request from CSM UK Ltd of Unit 3, Wiston Business Park for lighting at the A24 'Kate's Cakes junction' - busy A24 is dangerous, particularly at night when there may be up to 100 employees trying to leave the site at one time, concerned that it is inevitable that there will be a serious accident sooner or later. Councillors did not support the installation of lighting and felt that the problems lay more with the design of the junction and the driver behaviour of those entering the A24, and that lighting could indeed exacerbate the problem. Councillors also commented that there are no lit junctions on the A24 in the vicinity of Ashington and that WSCC should advise on whether lighting is appropriate based on the accident history of the junction. **KD D**
2. Invitation to Attend an HDC Community Safety Briefing Session - 29/01/14. No volunteers.

011/14 For information:

1. Minutes of HALC meeting (www.billingshurst.gov.uk)
2. Ashington resident complaining about parking near the Church – Clerk has passed to Warden & Police. The Rector is trying to address this issue.
3. Operation Watershed update
4. HDC – Flooding Task & Finish Group report on June 2012 floods.

5. WSCC – Kieran Stigant (Chief Exec) leaves his post 31/1/14.

012/14 General:

1. Local Council Review magazine
2. SALC Newsletter
3. Southern Water Business Plan 2015-20

013/14 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman explained that, in order that residents got the most benefit from their 5 mins maximum participation time, Councillors would listen to residents questions without debate or comment but would follow up on the items either by reporting back at the next meeting or directly to the individual outside of the meeting.

Members of the public reported:

1. Penn Gardens lost power for 5 days across the Xmas period. The impact was huge – freezer contents lost, homes insecure due to no alarms, stairlifts not working etc. UK Power Networks reported that they didn't have enough generators to restore power to everyone although at least one local business reported that none of his generators was used by UK Power Networks.
2. Streetlights still haven't been replaced in Penn Gardens. Clerk to report to WSCC. **KD D**
3. Update on Penn Retreat land. The Chairman & Clerk had been informed that a Developer had now bought the land, for use for housing.
4. Residents may not be aware of the Emergency Plan – needs publicising better eg via Newsletter. There are lots of Doctors, nurses etc in the village but their details are not on the Emergency Plan.
5. Moat Housing still haven't cut the hedge at Viney Close. The Clerk reported that she had taken a photograph of the offending hedge and sent it to WSCC who were satisfied that it was not blocking the public footpath and therefore isn't a problem.
6. Why is it taking so long to get a second Warden? The Chairman responded that the Parish Council had taken some time to analyse its options and to see what was needed in the village. It had thoroughly considered the Youth Worker option and had accepted that some of the Wardens budget be used for this. It had approached HDC about recruitment but HDC had some Health & Safety concerns and now wished to meet with the Parish Council to discuss the future of the Warden Scheme.

The Chairman thanked residents for their comments and closed the public adjournment.

014/14 PLANNING.

The Planning Committee met on 18th December and Councillors have been provided with a copy of the minutes. Agreed by all.

015/14 Correspondence

Neighbourhood Plan –the Clerk is waiting for official confirmation from HDC that the proposed Neighbourhood Plan Area has been approved. She will then look to put together a likely timetable for the next steps in the Plan. **KD C/F**

It was proposed to write to Nick Herbert MP about the power of the Planning Inspector to overturn local planning decisions based on Govt set housing targets rather than Local and Neighbourhood Plans. Agreed by all.

016/14 New Enforcement Allegations/Information

None

017/14 Amendments

None

Cllr Wood left the room.

018/14 Applications

DC/13/2384 Construction of a two storey side extension and front porch – 20 Fairfield Road

The Parish Council has no objections but notes that no bin store is shown on the plans and has some concern about the fate of the olive tree in the front garden, although plans state that it is not to be removed. KD D

Cllr Wood returned to the meeting.

Horsham District Council

019/14 Approvals

DC/13/2030 Removal of internal wall within kitchen and the installation of a new kitchen window on the ground floor easterly elevation (Listed Building Consent)- The Mill House, Mill Lane

DC/13/1857 Reduce 6 x Beech Trees – 29 Rectory Close

DC/13/2063 Part garage conversion to provide playroom and office above with 2 x windows to front elevation to match existing style and small dormer above – Tollgate Cottage, London Road

020/14 Refusals

DC/13/1759 Consent to display metal sign on metal pole with name of business and directional arrow - Well Adjusted Health The Sports Pavilion Church Lane

021/14 Withdrawals

DC/13/1796 Ground and first floor extension to the front of the property to create new attached garage with accommodation above and minor alterations internally to ground floor. Proposed new vehicular access onto Rectory Lane - 37 Meiros Way

022/14 Appeals made/ decisions

APP/Z3825/A/13/2208890 (DC/13/0475) Variation of Condition 1 of planning permission AS/26/97 (the 21 seasonal caravans stationed on the site shall only be occupied from 1st March to 31st October inclusive) to allow the residential occupancy of 10 mobile homes - Luckista Caravan Site, Billingshurst Road

The Parish Council's previous objections would be seen by the PI as part of this process.

The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for 22nd January at **7.30pm** in Ashington Sports Pavilion.

FINANCE

023/14 Budget & Precept 14/15

The Clerk has prepared a preliminary budget & precept forecast for 14/15 and a Finance Committee meeting took place on 20th November 2013. Councillors have been provided with a copy of the minutes and the supporting documentation. The Clerk reports that it is possible to achieve a 0% rise in precept and meet the Council's financial responsibilities for the forthcoming year. Clerk to send the precept request to HDC. Agreed by all. **D**

024/14 Correspondence

1. Replacement of half-pipe – the Clerk attended the ACCT meeting on 8th January to discuss this issue and they approved the design, location, works etc. It was agreed that the Clerk place the order and schedule 3 payments - £3500 upon order placement, £3500 upon arrival on site with materials and £4100 upon completion of works. Clerk to present the cheques at the appropriate time.

Agreed by all.

KD D

2. Newsletter – the publisher is no longer able to provide this service free of charge (reduced advertisers and rising costs). She can offer a design & print service for £272 per 2 page edition or £380 per 4 page edition. Delivery/postage would be an additional @£150 per edition. Total cost £422 or £530 per edition. No budget was set for this expense. The publishing of Newsletters was a requirement of a Quality Council, which Ashington is no longer. Councillors agreed not to publish the Newsletter in the future but to send articles to Sussex Local and Village Living. In addition the Chair & Clerk could publish an online version of the Newsletter although as it was recognised that not everyone has access to a computer a copy could be placed on the Notice Boards and a few photocopies could be left at locations such as the pharmacy and Cubitt and West etc. ACCT could deliver Newsletters for a donation of £25 but the Parish Council would still have to pay printing costs (not agreed).

025/14 Income

Recovered from S&F £2,728.54 taking the total to £81.6%

026/14 Expenditure

		Cheque no.	
Broker Network Ltd	Annual insurance	£1,004.32	1470
Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£491.66	
	Removal of tree (minute 008/14)	£210.00	1471
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	

	Postage	£14.40	
	Total	£31.40	1472
WSSC	Salary and on costs (December)	£879.11	1473
ACCT	Lunch club hall hire (Nov)	£59.20	1474
	Bingo club hall hire (Nov)	£37.00	1475
	Planning committee 18/12/13	£7.40	1476
	Skatepark insurance	£196.09	1477
	Lunch club hall hire (Dec)	£59.20	1478
	Finance Committee 20/11/13	£7.40	1479
Horsham Matters	youth worker	not yet received	1480
P. Webb	lunch club purchases	£132.23	1481
Public Works Loan	repayment	£3110.12	BACS
S. Fenn	Responder expenses	£67.30	1482
Radii Ramps	Downpayment on new half pipe	£3500	1483
	Mid payment for new half pipe	£3500	1484
	Final payment for new half pipe	£4100	1485

It was resolved that the schedule of payments shown above be approved for payment. Agreed by all.

027/14 MEETINGS

Cllr Gichovi-Elias had attended both Wardens Steering Group and an ACCT meeting.

028/14 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

1. Could the Clerk ask Ben Rainbow to visit the school pond to give them advice on maintenance. **KD D**
2. Surveyors have been spotted in the vicinity of Holmbush House and the petrol station site. This could mean more planning applications in the future.
3. There is flooding on Rectory Lane (outside Indian Cottage). The Clerk has already reported this to WSSC.
4. Pothole in Hillcrest Drive and on the southern slip road. There were filled recently by WSSC but have washed away. **KD D**
5. A pick-up truck was seen driving up the nature trail. Clerk to remind Mark Adsett to install the posts. **KD D**
6. What has happened to the VAS sign for Billingshurst Road? Clerk reported that it is still scheduled for installation 2013/14

The next meeting will be held at **7.45pm on Thursday 6th February 2014** at **Ashington School, Foster Lane.**

The meeting finished at 9.50pm

Signed.....

Date.....

029/14 APPENDIX 1: REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

Criminal Damage

There have been a few incidents of criminal damage across the village this month. Christmas lights have been tampered with on a resident's property. There has been damage made to a parked vehicle in Church Lane and also a case of arson in the same area. All reports of these incidents have been passed to the police. Following reports there has been an arrest for one of the incidents.

Youth are still congregating around community centre but there have been no reports of damage.

I am working very closely with the PCSO for our area.

Education work and interaction with the youth is ongoing.

This month has seen a youth do his community resolution by helping me to litter pick hot spots in the village. We collected several bin bags full of litter from around the village.

ANTI SOCIAL DRIVING

I continue to monitor and collate intelligence to pass to police regarding anti-social driving in Ashington

I am looking to see if Sussex Safer Roads are still doing a speed awareness course for the young drivers to attend. If so I have a few names I can put forward to do the course.

ILLEGAL DRUGS

I am still working towards passing any relevant intelligence to the police on any information I receive regarding drug usage in Ashington.

YOUTH SHELTER

I have attended another meeting with the community centre to discuss the proposed youth shelter idea. It was agreed that a youth shelter would be a possibility but discussions would need to be had regarding positioning of shelter. It was also requested, who would be responsible for insurance and maintenance of the youth shelter. Once these questions had been answered the community centre would be happy with the youth shelter proposal.

The youth are still very excited about the prospect of the shelter. This would give them an area in the village that they could be signposted to if they are found in areas in the village that we do not want them congregating.

YOUTH WORKER

The youth worker has been delivering a lot of project work with the youth educating them on the consequences of their behaviour and the effects it has on residents of the village.

Hopefully this work will continue in the New Year.

We just need to look at increasing the hours spent with the youth club being open in the week for the youth to attend.

CO OP

I have spoken with the Manager regarding issues with the anti-social behaviour outside the co-op. I have decided in the New Year that a meeting needs to be called with local residents and the co-op to discuss any concerns. Hopefully with the residents and co-op working together a lot of the issues can be resolved.

DOG FOUL

This work is ongoing with the dog foul problems. I will continue to patrol and observe hot spot areas.

I have had reports this month that the rec area is not so bad. Hopefully the message is getting through to the offending dog owners who do not pick up their dogs foul.

I still think it would be a good idea in the summer months to make the rec a dog on lead area. This would make it better for the sporting clubs that use this field for their sports activities.

FLY POSTING

This is still an ongoing problem in the village. I am removing signage and reporting to offenders that they are committing an offence and that they will be fined. I am giving them 48 hours to remove offending signage.

FLY TIPPING

There have been no reports of fly tipping this month. I am still looking into the possibility of signage being placed in hot spot areas stating if caught the penalties they would face.

ROAD SIGNAGE DAMAGE

Lots of road sign damage in and around village. I have been reporting to highways when found.

ELDERLY/VULNERABLE

Once again I have had a Very busy month with elderly/vulnerable issues.

Two safe guarding reports have been made to social services regarding elderly/vulnerable in the village. This will hopefully get them the care and help they require.

One issue that has come to light is the difficulties some of the elderly residents have in visiting the doctor's surgery. I will be visiting with the practice managers in the new year to discuss possibilities of a doctor holding a surgery once a week in the village. If this is not possible I would like to discuss with them the chances of the very elderly/vulnerable being visited in their own homes. Not sure if anything will come of these requests but it is worth a try.

I have visited many residents across the village making sure they are ok and that they have stocked up on provisions in case we experience bad weather. Everyone seems ok.

I have also been checking to see that they are not on their own at Christmas, most are going to family's or friend's over the festive period.

There has also been a lot of family intervention work again this month, helping some families' within the village with issues that are causing them distress. I am managing to sign post them to relevant agencies for support and help with their issues.

WARDEN CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas party took place at the Ashington community centre on the 14th December 2013, 3-6 pm. It was a brilliant success with 95 people attending. I would like to say a big thank you to all ashington local businesses for donating raffle prizes for this event. A sum of £195.00 was taken on raffle tickets. After we have paid out for expenses what is left will be used to arrange a trip for the elderly/vulnerable in the New Year.

Thank you also to all the helpers who without their help I could not manage to put on this event. Everybody worked so hard.

It was also lovely to see the youth helping and enjoying this event. Many of the youth have offered to help with other events that may be held in the New Year.

ASHINGTON LUNCH CLUB

Thanks to Pat the Lunch club Leader the Christmas lunch club went very well. A full Christmas dinner followed by live entertainment was enjoyed by all. A very big thank you to all the helpers, especially the youth that had offered their free time to assist in making this a nice day for all to enjoy. Raffle prizes again were donated by local businesses so a big thank you to them.

The next lunch club will be the 5th February 2014 @ 12 noon. This will hopefully be followed by an afternoon club 2-4.

I will be spending January sorting out the constitution and accounts for the lunch club. I will also get together a committee to take over the running of the club.

We still need volunteers to work as and when they can assist in serving the meals, washing up, and generally assisting to help the club run smoothly on the day.

A few more members to attend would be nice then we know that the club can pay all its overheads and will be able to keep running.

BINGO CLUB

Bingo will re-start on the 31st Jan 2014.

030/14 APPENDIX 2 – PCSO Report December-January

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and wish you all a happy new year.

I am pleased to say that it has been a low crime month. With the only one crime I can report on being committed.

A mazda parked on Church Lane Ashington had its wing mirror smashed. This happened between 11pm on 21/12/13 and 1pm on 22/12/13. Did you see or hear anything suspicious? If you did then please call 101 quoting ref: 1314 of 22/12/13.

I also want to make residents aware of an operation we have been doing called Operation Signature. The operation is about scam mail being sent to residents, scam mail for example that is clairvoyants, world lotteries etc. Mail that makes residents believe they have won money or a prize, but with the need of sending money before they receive their lottery win or their prize. If you know a resident that receives a high volume of scam mail or you know someone that has sent money in the past to one of these scams then we are asking residents to report it on 101. We can then conduct a visit and work with the resident to bring it to an end.

PCSO Bryony Sparks.